

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 TRSE-00 HA-05 /071 W

-----124219 061035Z /11

R 060912Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 3618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: ENRILE ELABORATES CHARGES OF AQUINO LINKS WITH
COMMUNISTS AND CIA

REF: MANILA 3468

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 5, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE APPEARED WITH PHILIPPINE JOURNALISTS ON TV PROGRAM "FACE THE NATION" TO CONTINUE THE GOP'S DENIGRATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMPRISONED OPPOSITION LEADER BENIGNO AQUINO. IN 90-MINUTE PROGRAM, ENRILE AGAIN CHARGED EXTENSIVE COLLUSION BETWEEN AQUINO AND BOTH THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLES ARMY AND THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. ENRILE DEFENDED HIS ATTACKS ON GROUNDS THAT AQUINO HAD PROTESTED THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DECISION NOT TO RELEASE HIM TO CAMPAIGN WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED (MANILA 3338). LATER, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT AQUINO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE THE SAME TV FORUM TO DEFEND HIMSELF. END SUMMARY.

2. ENRILE BASED HIS CHARGES OF AQUINO'S COLLUSION WITH THE NPA ON SEVEN LETTERS ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY AQUINO IN HIS PRISON CELL IN FORT BONIFACIO AND ADDRESSED TO PERSONALITIES IN TOUCH WITH NPA. AQUINO ALLEGEDLY GAVE THE LETTERS TO COURIERS HE AND OTHERS RECRUITED FROM AMONG THE JAILERS; THEY WERE
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ACTUALLY GOP INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WHO GAVE LETTERS TO ENRILE. THE LETTERS DISPLAY THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF NPA PERSONALITIES AND ORGANIZATION. IF ACTUALLY WRITTEN BY AQUINO, THEY WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM EXTENSIVE PREVIOUS CONTACT IF NOT COLLUSION BETWEEN AQUINO AND NPA, ALTHOUGH ONE LETTER SPECIFICALLY OFFERED TO COLLABORATE ON INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION BUT NOT CLADESTINE OPERATIONS. COMMENT: DESPITE ENRILE'S REPEATED

INSISTENCE THAT THEY ARE GENUINE, THERE IS NO WAY TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY AQUINO. ACCORDING TO ENRILE, ALL THE LETTERS WERE TYPED ON A ROYAL TYPEWRITER IN AQUINO'S POSSESSION AT FORT BONIFACIO. OBVIOUSLY, UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF AQUINO'S IMPRISONMENT, GOP INTELLIGENCE AGENTS COULD HAVE USED THE TYPEWRITER TO FABRICATE ANY SORT OF LETTER THEY CHOSE. WE BELIEVE THAT INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH ENRILE'S LETTERS AS EVIDENCE AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT ENRILE'S "DECLASSIFICATION" OF THESE LETTERS AND USE OF THEM IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. END COMMENT.

3. ENRILE'S CHARGES OF AQUINO'S TIES WITH THE CIA WERE BASED ON TAPE-RECORDED STATEMENTS AQUINO HIMSELF REPORTEDLY MADE AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING HIS DETENTION. AQUINO APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A HABIT OF EMBELLISHING AND FANTASIZING ABOUT THE CIA, AND THIS HAS GIVEN AMMUNITION TO ENRILE AND OTHER POLITICAL OPPONENTS. SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PROGRAM ENRILE STATED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT MAKING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT AQUINO'S TIES WITH THE CIA; HE WAS ONLY SURFACING AQUINO'S OWN STATEMENTS, WHICH HE HAD "NO REASON TO DISBELIEVE," AND SUGGESTING THAT AQUINO CLARIFY THE RECORD.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF AQUINO'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CIA, ENRILE DESCRIBED AN INTERVIEW, ALSO TAPED BY THE MILITARY, BETWEEN AQUINO AND TWO VISITING AMERICANS, PAUL KATTENBERG
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AND GUY PARKER, ON AUGUST 30, 1974. AFTER THE INTERVIEW, WHICH COVERED POSSIBLE POST MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AQUINO ALLEGEDLY IDENTIFIED THE TWO AMERICANS TO HIS JAILERS AS CIA MEN.

5. ONE OF THE FEATURES OF ENRILE'S PROGRAM WAS A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF AQUINO DESIGNED TO SHOW THE CONFORTABLE CONDITIONS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT AND THE ACCESS FOREIGN VISITORS HAVE TO HIM. MOST NOTABLE OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WAS ONE SHOWING ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATT DERIAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK SIEVERTS AND AN EMBASSY OFFICER SHAKING HANDS WITH A SMILING AQUINO DURING THEIR VISIT TO FORT BONIFACIO IN JANUARY.

6. THE TV PROGRAM WAS HOSTED BY RONNIE NATHANIELS AND CARRIED LIVE ON CHANNELS 2, 4, 7 AND 9, AS WELL AS ALL RAJO STATIONS.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 3618

THE INTERVIEWERS WERE TEDDY OWEN OF BULLETIN TODAY, REYNALDO NAVAL OF TIMES JOURNAL AND ENRIQUE ROMUALDEZ OF DAILY EXPRESS. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE RESPECTFUL, MANY WERE INTELLIGENT, BUT OCCASIONALLY A NOTE OF DISBELIEF CREPT INTO THE PROCEEDINGS. ONE QUESTIONER, FOR EXAMPLE, ASKED ENRILE TO EXPLAIN HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR AQUINO TO BE AN AGENT OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE CIA AT THE SAME TIME. ENRILE DODGED THE QUESTION WITH THE STATEMENT: "WE CANNOT DIVULGE OUR FINDINGS ON THIS BECAUSE IT MIGHT AFFECT OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES." AN EVEN MORE POINTED QUESTION WAS PHONED IN BY AN UNIDENTIFIED LISTENER, WHO ASKED WHAT WAS WRONG WITH WORKING FOR THE CIA. ENRILE RESPONDED, "IF A MAN WHO IS NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WORKS FOR THE CIA, THAT MEANS HE IS NOT SERVING HIS OWN COUNTRY AND COULD COMMIT TREASON. IN THE CASE OF AQUINO, WHY SHOULD HE WORK FOR THE CIA WHEN HE WAS HOLDING A RESPONSIBLE POSITION?"

7. ENRILE'S TV PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE THE LATEST MANIFESTATION OF A GOP CAMPAIGN TO LABEL AQUINO AND OTHER LABAN CANDIDATES STOOGES OF COMMUNIST AND FOREIGN, I.E., U.S., INTERESTS. BOTH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE HAVE ALSO MADE SHARP ATTACKS AGAINST ALLEGED TIES BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION AND THE COMMUNISTS AND/OR THE CIA IN RECENT DAYS (SEE SEPTTEL). THE BULLETIN TODAY OF MARCH 6 ANNOUNCED THAT A COMMANDER QUINES OF THE NPA, WHO SURRENDERED TO THE GOP
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TWO WEEKS AGO, HAD VOLUNTEERED TO TELL WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT AQUINO'S TIES WITH THE NPA. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO STAND BY FOR A PRESS INTERVIEW WITH QUINES.

8. FOLLOWING ENRILE'S PROGRAM, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED

THAT AQUINO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE INTERVIEWED ON THE
SAME PROGRAM TO ANSWER THESE "VERY SERIOUS QUESTIONS."
NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMMUNISTS
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Type: TE
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